

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1A

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY Poland

SUBJECT Glass Industry

25X1A

DATE OF INFO.

DATE DISTR. 12 December 1952

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

PLACE
ACQUIRED

25X1X

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. The Polish glass industry is directed by the Ministry of Light Industry and export of Polish glass is handled by Minex, under the Ministry of Foreign Trade. The industry is well developed, but the demand for Polish glass is not great and competition on foreign markets is keen. Even the Soviet Union is satisfied with deliveries of glass from Poland far under the amount which Poland could supply. The agreement with the USSR, for 1952 provides for delivery of various glass products in the total amount of 3,200,000 rubles, which is about one-half of the amount Poland would like to export to the USSR.
2. Poland exports glass to Switzerland (e.g., crystal to the value of about \$70,000 in 1951), Italy (various glass products to the value of \$29,254.65 in 1951), Palestine, Iraq, Syria, Egypt and Turkey, as well as to the USSR. Poland exported glass to the Philippines in 1949. Poland expects to export cement and \$325,000 worth of glass (about 800 metric tons) to Argentina in 1952 in exchange for much-needed Argentine hides. All arrangements with Argentina are executed by Minex through the Argentine government office IAPI in Buenos Aires and through Argentine Polish Clearing (Clearing Argentinsko-Polski - CAP). At the trade fair in Milan in 1952 Poland offered glass products for sale, including laboratory glass utensils, bottles, household glass, mirror and fancy glass. The Italian firm Eugenio Campodonico, Corso Vinzaglio 14, Torino, bought four thousand square meters of translucent ornamental glass for \$1,800. Minex wished to sell 10-15 thousand square meters of this glass, but there was difficulty in finding buyers for that quantity. At the Milan fair the firm of Hassan Kronfel & Fils, of Rue Foch, Beyrouth, Lebanon, was interested in Polish glass for export to Arabia and Syria.

CLASSIFICATION

SECRET

[illegible]

SECRET

-2-

3. Polish sand is not good for crystal glass because of its high iron content (more than 0.2 per cent). Sand for use in the production of crystal glass is imported from Hohenock, East Germany. In 1949 and 1950 sand was also imported from Fontainebleau, France. Other materials necessary for glass production, such as potassium and lead salts, are obtained from Polish chemical factories. Most Polish crystal is exported to Switzerland. Polish laboratory glass is much inferior to Jena and Pyrex laboratory glass.
4. Electric bulbs and neon tubes are also made in Poland. Wolfram filaments for electric bulbs are imported from the USSR.
5. Packing of glass presents a problem in Poland because of a lack of expert packers and lack of wood sufficiently dry to prevent warping and breakage of the contents packed.
6. An Institute for Research in Silicates (Institute Krzemianow) under the supervision of the Deputy Minister of Light Industry was established in October 1951 in Warsaw to develop methods for the production of building glass, glass bricks, etc. Irena Ahrens, Engineer Skalicka and Engineer Winogradow are engaged in research at the institute, which is currently developing a new method for making glass bottles from an alkali type tufa (tufy krzeszowickie) of volcanic origin, of which there are three or four million tons at Krzeszowice 5008N-1938E, near Cracow. The tufa is solid, hard, stronger than marble and violet in color. I do not know its chemical composition. At present it is used for the production of calcined or ammoniacal soda as a substitute for soda ash (Na_2CO_3). Formerly it was used for house facades in Cracow. Production of glass from tufa is expected to start in 1952. No installations had been built while I was still in Poland. Sweden expressed interest in the tufa and its use.
7. I recall the following glass factories in Poland:
 - (a) Hortensja Glass Works (Huta Szkla Hortensja) in Piotrkow Trybunalski 5124N-1941E -- ordinary bottles and soda bottles.
 - (b) Feniks Glass Factory (Huta Szkla Feniks) in Piotrkow Trybunalski -- bottles, apothecary bottles.
 - (c) Czichow Glass Works in Sosnowiec 5017N-1910E, Chemiczna 10 -- glass bottles.
 - (d) Szczytna Glass Works in Szczytno 5334N-2100E -- glass dishes and bottles.
 - (e) Government Enterprise Glass Factory Czichow (Przedsiębiorstwo Panstwowe Huta Szkla Czichow) in Sosnowiec.
 - (f) Household Glass Factory (Zabkowicka Huta Szkla Gospodarczego i Przedsiębiorstwo Panstwowe Wyodrebnione w Zabkowicach) in Zabkowice 5023N-1917E -- glass bottles, cups, etc.
 - (g) Ujscie Glass Works (Zaklady Szklarskie Ujscie w Ujsciu) in Ujscie 5303N-1645E -- bottles.
 - (h) Incandescent Light Works Nysa (Zaklady Szkla Oswietleniowego Nysa) in Pienk 5330N-1645E -- electric bulbs.
 - (i) United Glass Works of Jelenia Gora (Jelenogorskie Zjednoczone Zaklady Szklarskie. Przedsiębiorstwo Panstwowe Wyodrebnione w Jeleniej Gorze, Aleja Wojska Polskiego 25) 5054N-1544E.
 - (j) State Glass Factory (Panstwowa Huta Szkla) in Zawiercie 5030N-1926E -- crystal glasses, vases, plates.
 - (k) Plate Glass Factory (Fabryka Szkla Lustrzanego) in Walbrzych 5046N-1617E.

SECRET